

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 1-hour Ozone in Lafourche Parish

Lafourche Parish, Louisiana was designated under section 107 of the 1977 CAA as nonattainment with respect to ozone NAAQS on September 11, 1978. (40 CFR 81.319) In accordance with section 110 of the 1977 CAA, the state of Louisiana submitted the ozone SIP as required by part D on December 10, 1979. EPA fully approved this ozone SIP on October 29, 1981 (46 FR 53412).

On November 15, 1990, the CAA Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) were enacted (Public Law 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q). The ozone nonattainment designation for Lafourche Parish continued by operation of law according to section 107(d)(1)(C)(i) of the CAA, as amended in 1990 (See 56 FR 56694, November 6, 1991). Since the State had not yet collected in Lafourche Parish the required three (3) years of ambient air quality data necessary to petition for redesignation to attainment, the area was designated as an ozone nonattainment area and classified as an incomplete data area.

In order to demonstrate attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, the state collected the required ambient monitoring data in Lafourche Parish that showed no violations of the 0.12 ppm 1-hour ozone standard; developed an ozone maintenance plan for the parish in accordance with section 175A of the CAAA; and on November 18, 1994, submitted to EPA for approval a request for redesignation to attainment and the ozone maintenance plan. The request was accompanied by ambient air monitoring data that showed no violations of the NAAQS standard of 0.12 parts per million (ppm) for a period of three years and a maintenance SIP for ozone. EPA approved the request for redesignation to attainment and maintenance SIP on August 18, 1995 by issuing a direct final rule. (60 FR 43020) However, before the redesignation was final, an ozone NAAQS violation was recorded at a Lafourche Parish ozone monitoring station. On December 5, 1997, EPA corrected the designation for Lafourche Parish to nonattainment for ozone (62 FR 64284) but left the maintenance SIP approved August 18, 1995 in place.

On August 9, 2000, LDEQ again requested redesignation of the ozone attainment status for Lafourche Parish, by submitting to EPA data for the period of January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1999, indicating the NAAQS standard for ozone had been achieved. EPA also evaluated the ozone data for the years 2000 and 2001. No violations of the 0.12 ppm ozone standard occurred in these additional years. The data satisfied the CAA requirements of no more than one exceedance

per annual monitoring period. EPA approved the redesignation to attainment for ozone on December 26, 2001. (66 FR 66317)

1.1.2 8-hour Ozone in Lafourche Parish

On April 15, 2004, the EPA designated and classified areas for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS (69 FR 23858, April 30, 2004). Lafourche Parish was designated attainment with an effective date of June 15, 2004.

1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

Lafourche Parish is located in south east Louisiana and has a total area of 1084.8 square miles. The parish seat is the city of Thibodaux, which is also home to Nicholls State University. Agriculture is predominant in the area with hundreds of acres planted in sugarcane, corn, potatoes, rice, cotton and fruit crops. The area also supports oil and related industries, sugar refining and related industries, timber, seafood, canning and boat building. Lafourche Parish has a population of approximately 89,947 as of the 2000 Census.¹

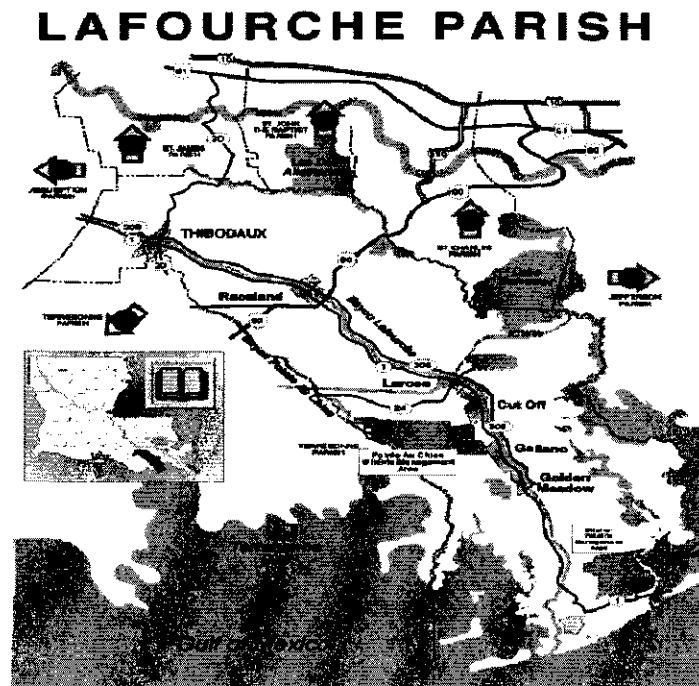


Figure 1: State Map Illustrating Lafourche Parish

¹ Louisiana Almanac, 2006-2007 Edition; Milburn Calhoun, Editor, Pelican Publishing Co., Gretna, La. 2006

1.3 Public Notice

In accordance with La. R.S. 49:950 et seq., and to comply with 40 CFR 51.285 Public Notification, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality published a notice seeking comment on this SIP revision on October 20, 2006 in the *Louisiana Register*. A public hearing concerning this proposed SIP revision will be held at 1:30pm on November 28, 2006, in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Room C-111, at 602 N. Fifth Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Interested parties are invited to submit written or oral comments on the proposal at that time. The comment period will close at 4:30 p.m. on December 5, 2006. Written comments will be accepted via mail, fax, or e-mail. Copies of the notices are included in Appendix C.